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Amendments to the Specification

Replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 2-12, with the following amended paragraph:

-According to the invention, there is provided a filter underdrain assembly for controlling backwash water flow in a filtration system having a backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the cross-sectional area of said apertures in said panel members varying between said panel members, said apertures of said panel members being located further away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser cross-sectional area relative to said cross-sectional area of said apertures of said panel members closer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system.--

Replace the paragraph on page 5, lines 13-22, with the following amended paragraph:

-According to a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a filter underdrain apparatus for controlling backwash water flow maldistribution in a filtration system a backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain apparatus comprising a plurality of panel members assembled adjacent each other to form a grid like underdrain, each panel element having multiple punched bridges in a surface thereof, each bridge defining a pair of slotted water inlet/outlets and wherein the number and/or size of said punched bridges are varied from panel member to panel member, said panel members furthest away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number of bridges or smaller slotted inlet/outlets from said panel members nearer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system, said

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panel members being operable to provide a substantially equalised water flow through the underdrain assembly from said panel members.--

Replace the paragraph extending from page 5, line 23 over to page 6, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

-According to yet a further aspect of the invention, there is provided a filter underdrain assembly for controlling backwash water flow from a backwash water inlet associated with a filtration system, said filter underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the number or cross-sectional area of said apertures varying between said panel members, said panel members located further away from said backwash water inlet of said filtration system having a lesser number or smaller cross-sectional area of said apertures relative to those of said panel members located closer to said backwash water inlet of said filtration system, said panel members being operable to substantially equalize water flow from each of said panel members of said filter underdrain assembly.--

Delete the paragraphs extending from page 6, line 5 to page 8, line 20.